M.Ps.' Local area Development Scheme

804. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Member of Parliament can ask the District Magistrate concerned to handover the amount of Rs. 1 crore sanctioned for development work under MP's Local Area Development Scheme, to a contractor appointed by concerned MP for implementing various schemes in his constituency;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the guidelines issued to District Magistrates to deal such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

(c) The District Magistrate is to have the proposals of the MP implemented as per the established procedure.

Revision of pay-scales in coal companies

805. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had talks with trade unions recently and had entered into any agreement with them for revision of worker's pay-scales;

(b) if so, what would be the likely total additional financial burden on coal companies as a result of this agreement;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are taking decision to increase coal prices to meet this additional financial burden on coal companies;

(d) if so, what are the details on this regard; and

(e) whether production cost of coal in the country is higher than the cost in other coal producting countries of the world; and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) A memorandum of Understanding has been signed on 29th April, 1995 between the representatives of workers and management on the Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry V covering the broad terms of the National Coal Wage Agreement V.

(b) The additional annual burden on the subsidiaries of CIL will be Rs. 362.17 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir. The average cost of production per tonne compares favourably with the cost of coal produced in a number of countries.

Stoppage of coal movement

806. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem which appeared in the 'Observer' dated 19th June, 1995 under the caption "Stoppage of Coal movement hits MCL workers";

(b) if so, the authority which took the decision and with whose approval;

(c) what are the provisions of the liberalised Coal Sale Scheme and in what manner the reported decision to stop the sale of coal from Talcher is in pursuance of this scheme;

(d) what has been the impact of this decision on the local or nearby brick and tile manufacturers and other user industries in terms of quantum, quality and cost of supplies and also on the transporters, traders etc.; and

(e) in what manner the genuine grievances of the affected coal consumers and intermediaries are sought to be redressed?

THE MINISTERR OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) to (d) Proposals to place certain mines under Liberalised Sale Scheme (Revised) (LSS) have been received from Mahanadi Coalfields Limited for according approval of Government. As per the guidelines framed by the Government for purpose of placing mines under the LSS, only such mines as have stocks of more than three months production should generally be placed under LSS. Scrutiny of the proposal received from Mahanand Coalfields revealed that some mines proposed were not meeting the said stipulation. However, the matter was re-examined taking into consideration the high volume of coal production from the mines which face evacuation problems and also the local discontent because of both disruption in the supply of a vital industrial input and also the threat of employment of local people because of the sudden withdrawal of the scheme from the area. Accordingly, approval had been communicated to the coal company (MCL) for placing mines under LSS on 30.5.1995, 21.6.1995 and 22.6.1995.

(e) The Liberalised Sale Scheme is being reviewed from time to time to better serve the objective of the scheme so as to meet the genuine demand of small coal consumers.

Linkage of CPI with Minimum Wages

807. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Committee of Labour Ministers constituted on Minimum Wages recommended in the year 1990 that at the minimum rise of every 40 point in CPI Government will revise minimum wage compensating rise in CPI and also recommended for the linkage of CPI rise in with DA;

(b) if so, whether Central Govement is effecting this recommendation;

(c) how many State Government have failed to implement the decision; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to make it obligatory for the State and Central Governments to implement the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A SANGMA): (a) to (d) The 31st Session of the Labour Ministers' Conference held in July, 1980 recommended that the minimum rates of wages may be reviewed and revised, if necessary after a period not exceeding 2 years or on a rise of 50 points in the CPI number, whichever is earlier. The 39th Session of the Labour Ministers's Conference held in December, 1990 further recommended that the minimum wages should be revised every two years and an element linked to Consumer Price Index Number should be included in the minimum rates of wages. These recommendations have been communicated to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for their consideration and implementation. Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both the Central and State Governments are the appropriate Governments for fixation/revision of minimum rate of wages for the scheduled employments falling under their respective jurisdictions. The Central Government is responsible for fixation/revision of minimum rates of wages in respect of 40 scheduled employments and Variable Dearness Allowance as a component of minimum wages has been provided in all the 40 scheduled employments. The Variable Dearness Allowance is revised every 6 months based on rise or fall in the Consumer Price Index Number. A number of States have also made provision for Variable Dearness Allowance as a part of Minimum Wages. A statement indicating the minimum rates of wages, provision of Variable Dearness Allowance and date of last revision of wages for the unskilled category of workers in different State/Union Territories is given in the Statement.